



## STARS NEWS



### STARS for KIDS NOW Interim Report

The Interim Report implementation is in full swing and many of our programs have received and completed the new process already.

*What is it?* It is a report for STARS levels two (2) through four (4) submitted to the Division of Child Care between rating visits.

*Will I be getting one?* All programs carrying a rating of two, three or four will receive the report from the Division of Child Care (DCC) 90 days prior to their STARS anniversary date.

*Where can I find out more?* You will find an informational ("How to...What is it?") PowerPoint regarding the Interim Report at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/starsforkidsnow.html> and at <http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/OEI/stars.asp>.

*Can I receive help completing my Interim Report?* YES! The same wonderful team of STARS Quality Coordinators that assist you in preparing for a rating visit is available to assist you as well as the central office staff of DCC. Refer to the Helpful Information and Resources for contact information.

***Be on the lookout for an updated Interim Report PowerPoint in January. This will include frequently asked questions, common mistakes and a supporting documentation section.***

### STARS for KIDS NOW Exciting News

The national average for participation of child care programs in a voluntary Quality Rating System is 25 percent. The STARS for KIDS NOW program is currently at a 26.6 percent participation rate across the state!

Thank you to all participating programs for your commitment to quality and thank you to all those who make this program successful!



## SAD TO SEE HER GO



We are sad to announce one of our great STARS leaders and pioneers will be retiring this December.

Linda Bratton has been with the Division of Child Care since 1991. She has served families and children in many different capacities throughout her career. In 1998, she served in the Governor's Office to help set up Kentucky's early childhood initiative, KIDS NOW. She has served many roles within the STARS for KIDS NOW program. She currently serves as the STARS technical advisor.

Her legacy to families and children all across the commonwealth will carry on forever.

Thank you, Linda, for all you have done! We love you and will miss you greatly!



## A STAR IS BORN



We are pleased to announce the arrival of a STARS baby...

Our Program Coordinator, Holly Ackerman, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on Sept. 19, 2008. She was born at 8 a.m., weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. and was 19½ inches long.

Her big sister, Sarah, named her. Her name is Emily Elizabeth. They share the same middle name, so that they are "real sisters" according to Sarah. Yes, it is the same name as the little girl who owns the big red dog, Clifford. Sarah will proudly tell you that is where she got the idea for her name.

Emily and proud big sister Sarah are pictured below...



## DID YOU KNOW?



- High-quality child care during the preschool years is linked to improved language, academic and social skills when children later enter elementary school, according to a new study of children from across the United States.
- Higher quality care is modestly associated with a wide variety of better cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes for children from diverse backgrounds, including differences in gender, ethnic background and level of maternal education, says lead author Ellen Peisner-Feinberg, of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- In some cases, the benefits of high quality care were even stronger and longer lasting for children at greater risk for having difficulty in school than the average. This was particularly true in the case of better math skills and fewer problem behaviors child, Peisner-Feinberg says.

More from "Benefits of quality child care last into elementary school" can be found at <http://members.tripod.com/newhorizonsdc/id16.html>





# HELPFUL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



- ★ For questions about certificates, scheduling a rating visit, assistance with the Interim Report or incentive payments, please call the Division of Child Care at (502) 564-2524, or e-mail us at [STARS@ky.gov](mailto:STARS@ky.gov). (Please be aware that this is neither a secure e-mail address nor an outgoing email account. A response will be sent from a cabinet employee or a designee. Also, please do not send information such as personal identifying information (PII) or protected health information (PHI) via this e-mail. Thank you!)
- ★ To request technical assistance, please contact your STARS Quality Coordinator at (800) 956-8950.
- ★ The Division of Child Care's Web site is: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/>
- ★ The Kentucky Partnership for Early childhood Services' Web site is: <http://www.kentuckypartnership.org/>

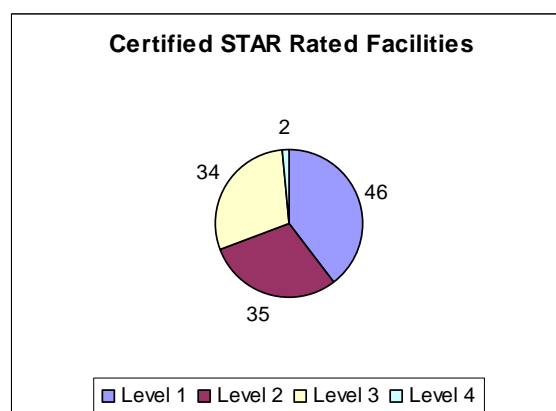
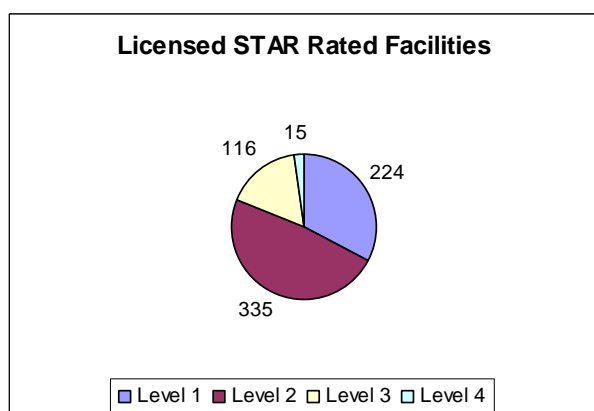
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**Cabinet for Health and Family Services**  
**Department for Community Based Services**  
**Division of Child Care**  
275 E. Main St., 3C-F  
Frankfort, KY 40621



## STAR RATED FACILITIES



The numbers of STAR-rated facilities represent a point in time of unduplicated facilities on Nov. 26, 2008.